CHAPTER VII

" GREAT LOVERS "

RUPERT BROOKE'S *Memoir* (by Edward Marsh) supplies the outline of the story of his connection with Tahiti, In December, 1913, he wrote from Fiji that he was off to New Zealand, and " thence to Tahiti, to hunt for lost Gauguins." From Auckland: " Why, precisely, I'm here, I don't know. I seem to have missed a boat somewhere, and I can't get on to Tahiti till the beginning of January. Damn. And I hear that a man got to Tahiti two months ahead of me, and found—and carried off—some Gauguin paintings on glass. DAMN ! " From Tahiti he wrote in February, 1914 : " I've decided to stay here another month for two very good reasons : (i)

that I haven't